GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:890
ANSWERED ON:03.12.2015
Sources of Drinking Water
Misra Shri Ajay (Teni)

Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

(a) the names of various sources of drinking water in rural areas of the country;
(b) whether there is reported shortage of purified water in rural areas due to depleting ground water table; and
(c) if so, the details thereof along with various measures taken/being taken by the Government to improve the situation, State/UT-wise?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION
(SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV)

(a) The sources of drinking water in rural areas of the country include ground water in shallow and deeper aquifers, open wells, surface water bodies like lakes, ponds, reservoirs, rivers, springs and roof-top rainwater harvesting..
(b) About 85% of the rural drinking water sources in the country are based on groundwater as source. As reported by the State Governments into the online Integrated Management Information System (IMIS) of the Ministry, as on date, out of the 17.13 lakh rural habitations, 12.89 lakh habitations are reported to have at least 40 liters per capita per day (LPCD) of safe drinking water while 3.6 lakh habitations have safe drinking water but the service level is less than 40 liters per capita per day. Apart from this, there are 63,764 habitations which have chemical contamination in the form of arsenic, fluoride, salinity, iron or nitrate in one or more drinking water sources. Depleting groundwater table is one of the reasons for both shortage of safe water as well as increase in chemical contamination in certain cases.

(c) Rural water supply is a State subject. This Ministry supplements the efforts of the States by providing them with technical and financial assistance under the centrally sponsored National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) for providing safe and adequate drinking water facilities in rural areas of the country. States have been delegated with the powers to plan, select and implement the rural water supply schemes in the habitations either through ground water based water supply schemes or through schemes using surface water bodies. States in the Annual Action Plan meetings have been urged to take up rural drinking water schemes based on surface water to avoid the problem of slippages & contamination and to reduce the use of ground water. Also as immediate measures, States have been asked to provide safe drinking water through community water purification plants in quality affected habitations. In the year 2015-16, an amount of Rs. 2715.47 crore has so far been released to States / UTs for providing safe drinking water to rural areas of the country.